

M BAR RANCH

Palisade, Nebraska 69040

May 1, 2003

Mr. Kenneth Payne
AMS Livestock and Seed Program
USDA STOP 0251
1400 Independence Ave
S.W. Washington D.C. 20250-0251

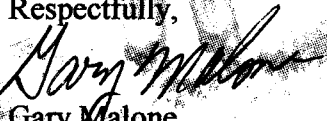
Dear Mr. Payne:

Where does one start? We had an election which was done right and was completed through the FASA offices. The Pork Check-Off was voted out. However our Secretary of Agriculture cut a back room deal and would not honor the vote of the people. If I had been President Bush I would have fired her on the spot.

So why do we now talk about further checking on who raises hogs? If it is voted out we will still have it because that is what big brother wants they want control of the check-off dollars. They want to know how many animals are out here. The list goes on and on. The bottom line is a cheap food policy and we are expected to produce at a cost of less than the cost of production.

Gale Malone my father sold his first hogs when he was 12 years old. If he were still alive he would now be 91 years old. I have taken over the farming-livestock operation several years ago. Our ranch the M-BAR has sold hogs for 79 years and 59 years from one location. I am against the check-off. It is theft of the worst kind. I say that because we as a majority did not vote for it did not want it have no say so over the way the money is spent, and can't even be on a board that governs the spending of the money if we are not from a pork association. I have had as many as 250 sows and have always gone from furrow to finish. I bet that before it is all said and done I will not even get to vote on the check-off. Why? I will not have sold enough hogs or the right kind or something real stupid like that. This is not what you wanted but I thought you should at least know that there is someone out here that is no buying into a program that has caused over $\frac{3}{4}$ of the family farmers to go out of the hog business.

Respectfully,



Gary Malone